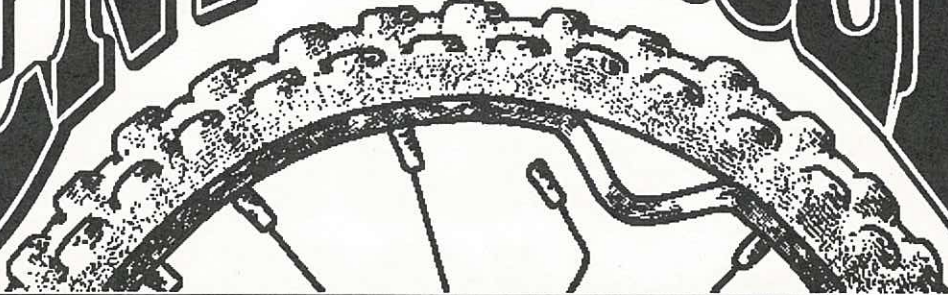


BENT RIM BUGLE



Bent Rim Bugle Published For the Michigan Mountain Biking Association

Vol. 11 No. 2



Rock 'n Rolling Fun!
dirtstock
97

Rock 'n Rolling Fun!

dirtstock '97

Well, it's history. The first ever dirtstock 97, has come and gone. Nearly 200 mountain bikers showed up: individuals, couples and families.

Friday night there were videos provided on a big screen TV system and free popcorn for everyone (Thanks to Dan's Bike and Lock Shop of Ionia). Everyone enjoyed several episodes of *Inside Mountain Biking* provided by the video mountain biking guru of the Midwest region, Renee' Berarra, from TCI Cable of Oakland County. Please note: the home video provide by Gordon Allen was not intended to induce a drug-like sleep. Those who found themselves face down on the ground, zonked out like a wet paper plate after the Gordie's "home video" portion of the evening should not attempt to contact the management or staff of the event. However, if you have trouble sleeping, Gordie will be glad to show you more for a small fee....(Just kidding Gordie....)

Saturday saw sunshine, pancakes, and a full day of adventures for kids (kids' rodeo) and adults (poker run). There were also

various group rides taking place throughout the day, headed by Captain Tom and the Brown-dirt Cowboys (ride leaders). Bike mechanics were on hand if needed, compliments of Team Active of Battle Creek. The day concluded with burgers (both regular and veggie) on the grill and a great collection of eclectic music provide by Ric Castelman, The Four Lincolns and Victim. The burgers where hot and so was the music.

Though you'd be in error if

you implied I am trying to be a music critic, a few words on all those who volunteered to provide the music is in order. Ric's collection of music was played so smoothly and with such flair that a double take was in order. One might find it hard to believe that one guy could make so much music.

The Four Lincolns, provided a dead-center college age sound. Though the band had recently went through some changes, they managed to pull off a sound that was tight and backed-up their



Boy! Can these guys and gals cook - both on and off the trails!
(More pics. on page 4 - Cover dirtstock 97 /photos by dwain a.)

female lead singer solidly.

Victim, well they became the Victim of the evening. They were the last band on the gig schedule and came cross state from Detroit to belt out a collection of current hits and some very dynamic and well-lined tunes of their own. They put out a loud, hard-as-bricks sound, but with no sharp edges. However, they became "victims" of their own success. After about an hour on stage (yes - there was a stage...) just after dusk, the park management informed them that they got complaints from the adjacent campground to the one the MMBA rented that the sound was carrying a bit too far (good rock and roll does that...).

Victim, was cool about that. The coolest. They play one "softer" song and put the gig to bed. They said they understood and without hesitation asked if they could be back next year. "Without a doubt," was the reply. After talking with the park management, arrangements have been made to move the music up earlier in the agenda so as to avoid the evening hour "quiet time".

Sunday saw the skies turn grey with a little rain, but the spirits of the riders were still brilliant sunshine. After the scavenger hunt, the rain stop and the fun continue. The day ended with a barbecue and adventurous talk of all those who participated. Though smaller than expected, the event was measured a success by all those who attended. The MMBA and the Parent Project of the Muscular Dystrophy Organization are thankful to all those who attended. Their participation helped provide needed resources to meet the needs of the constituency they serve. dirtstock 98, be there!

BENT RIM BUGLE

Publisher

Dwain Abramowski

Editorial Assistance

Christina - As always thank you

Contributing Writers/Editors

Lisa Lazaroff, Emil Sims, Kevin Bouck,

Todd Dewell, Jason Jones Dennis

Hansen, Dennis Bean Larson,

Gordon Allen

Land Managers Column

Fred Tyszka, MDNR

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Castelli Publications/

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Support: Christina

Cover: Dwain

Contributing

Photographers/Graphics

The major mountain biking

art dude - Dan Clark

Dwain A. / Bill Dyhouse

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Mother Nature -

Use them wisely

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"What is the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?" Henry David Thoreau

MMBA

4217 Highland Rd #268 Water Ford

MI 48328

Ex. Dir./Bent Rim Bugle (BRB)

P.O. Box 29 Belmont MI 49306

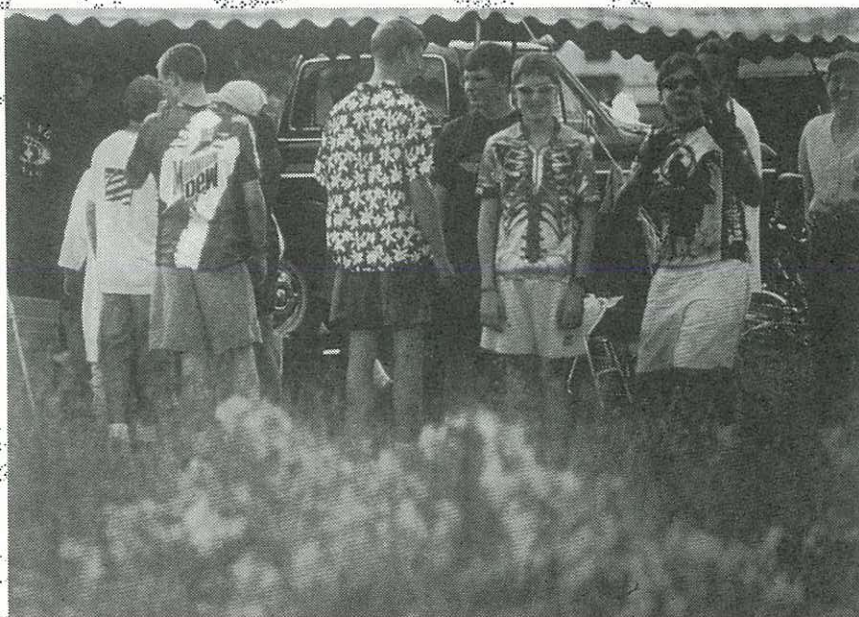
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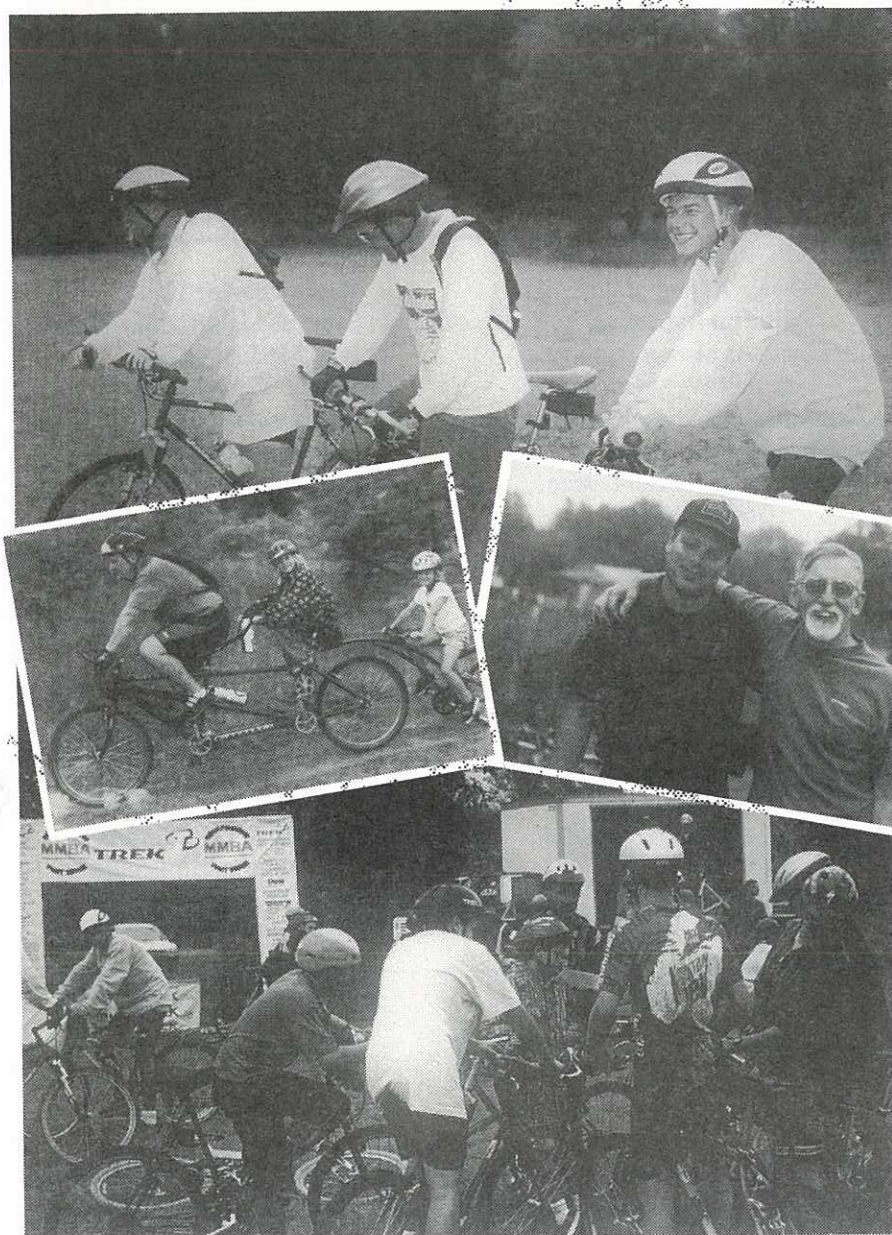
e-mail: gommmba@aol.com

web: www.mmba.org

MMBA Listserv: mmba@cyclimg.org



(more dirtstock 97, pics next page)



BENT RIM BUGLE PUBLISHING INFO

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) is published 4 times a year (quarterly) Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The BRB is the source for news and information for the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA). Articles come from MMBA members, MMBA Chapter Presidents, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other sources. The focus of the BRB is on what is of interest to MMBA members as well as environmental issues, land access, mountain biking events, rides, competition, fun and other activities and information related to the mountain biking.

Editorial contributions and photos are welcomed, but cannot be returned unless accompanied by proper postage. Send contributions to: **MMBA/BRB P.O. Box 29, Belmont MI 49306**. The BRB also can provide classified ads to MMBA members for free and advertising space to shops and manufactures. **For deadlines and rates contact the address above or call, (616) 785-0120 or AOL E-Mail: Go MMBA@aol.com. (Net: Go_MMBA@aol.com) MMBA Web site: <http://www.mmba.org>.**

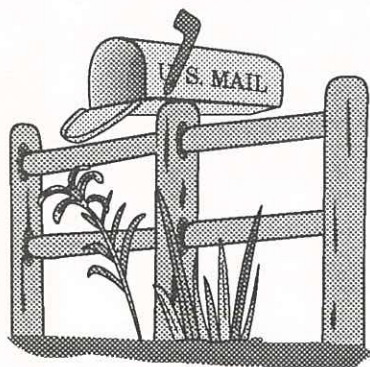
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the MMBA, Publisher, and/or MMBA members, Dealers, or Sponsors. In other words, lighten-up it's mountain biking not world hunger... Copyright, August 1997, all rights reserved... Ya-sure-you-bet-cha....

MMBA Responsibility Code

1. Always yield the right of way to other trail users.
2. Slow down and pass with care (or stop).
3. Control your speed at all times.
4. Stay on designated trails.
5. Don't disturb wildlife or livestock.
6. Pack out litter.
7. Respect public and private property.
8. Know local rules.
9. Plan ahead.
10. Avoid riding in large groups.
11. Minimize impact.
12. Report incidents of trail impasse to local park authorities.

Here's a *Fax-* Thank You!

Thank you to all those who called about helping the MMBA out with a fax-machine. Several people and organizations called to help, but could only offer non-addressable faxes. The MMBA needed one that could be "addressable," meaning it could recognize a special ring so the MMBA could



Dear MMBA:

I was just writing to thank you for your excellent and informative home page as well as your great trails. I was visiting Detroit from Virginia a few weeks ago and I wanted to bring my bike along. I used your page to find the Pinkney trail and had a couple of great rides. As someone who maintains a page and does trail building in Central Virginia, I know how much work is involved in what you've done. I just wanted to let you know that I appreciate your work. Thanks!

Colleen Doody
Team Working Title
Charlottesville, VA

utilize one phone line for several tasks.

Well, through some creative help from Gordon Allen and IMBA, an arrangement was worked out where the MMBA got a fax! IMBA provided the MMBA with a used computer through a special program they have offering several used computers to mountain biking programs around the country. The MMBA received one. As it worked out, Gordon Allen is our MMBA Championship Points Series director and his son, Chad has become our MMBA.org web page guru and saw that the com-

puter would meet the needs of those two operations which he coordinates in Kalamazoo. Gordon then donated an addressable fax machine to the MMBA for use in the executive director's office in Grand Rapids.

So if you need to send a fax it will arrive thanks to IMBA and Gordon Allen.

The new
MMBA Fax
number is:
616-785-1940

If you're gonna get dirty, you're gonna need a Rag.

DIRT rag

Each issue of Dirt Rag brings you laughs, opinions, reviews and news about your favorite sport...and ours...mountain biking. \$12 gets you 7 dirty issues a year!

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Some good things have happened on LWCF front. The House has requested \$700 million for public land acquisition (Administration only requested \$160 million in its budget). The fund takes in \$900 million from off shore oil drilling.

Mountain bikers have been part of this coalition from the beginning. We have made a real contribution to the effort and this is appreciated by the other groups. This is not only good for our public lands and recreational opportunities, it is good for our

legitimacy as a partner with other environmental, recreational and neighborhood preservation groups.

It's time to act NOW. Please write your Congressperson. A sample letter is below: Questions? Feel free to write me at imbajim@aol.com

Thanks, Jim Hasenauer

SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS

Please do the following:

- 1) edit & send on your letterhead
- 2) write a personal letter
- 3) distribute for others to use

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

(YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME) would like to thank you and your peers in the (SENATE/HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES) for making open space and outdoor recreation a high priority for the 105th Congress.

We are also heartened by reports that appropriations of \$700 million are to be added to President Clinton's request of \$166 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This is a strong and outstanding step toward full appropriation of the \$900 million LWCF, and toward reversing the record of Congressional misappropriation.

Please make sure that the language in the budget agreement insures funding "at" the \$866 million level, not "up to."

Also, please insure that there is specific language to assure an adequate level of funding for stateside projects. Without this assurance, communities in your district will have a difficult time meeting the increasing demand for parks and outdoor recreation.

We direct your attention to the list of priority LWCF projects for FY 1998. The list is supported by Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation (AHR), a national coalition of over 150 conservation and recreation organizations, urban advocates, businesses, and public land managers. We strongly urge you to ensure that Congress adequately funds the AHR list of federal and state projects this year.

Thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Ongoing is the effort to keep ISTEAs on track as the budget battle ebbs and flows. To support the enhancements' program, they suggested we engage in the following activities:

1) **LETTER OF SUPPORT**
They suggested organizations send a letter of support for enhancements to Rep. Shuster (R-PA), Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and cc the letter to Reps.

Boehlert (R-NY) and Oberstar (D-MN).

2) **GRASSROOTS CALLS AND LETTERS**
They suggested we get grassroots calls and letters to your local Senator on the House Trans. and Infr. Committee:

Vernon Ehlers (3rd MI)

3. Finally, if you'd like to be placed on STPP's e-mail network on ISTEAs, e-mail Laura Olsen at: lolsen@transact.org

Just Off The Web...

Congressman Jim Ryun (R-KS) has announced his intention to introduce legislation that will overturn the National Rail Banking Act. He offers an opinion that abandoned rail rights-of-way should revert to the adjacent land owners. If you have an opinion on this issue you should contact your representative now.

(your representative name)

US House
of Representatives
511 Cannon Bldg.
Washington DC 20515-0003



Mid-State Chapter

The Mid-State Chapter is having fun this year with lots of non-competitive events. August 10th was the chapter's Fun Days. It was a great time for all who attended! The next event is a Scrabble Scramble being held at Grand River Park in Lansing on Saturday, September 27. The fun starts at 11AM. Look for more info soon or call Lisa at (517) 782-9093 (eves), (313) 997-3465 (days).

The chapter is also holding a raffle. A Cannondale backpack is being raffled off & it's filled with bike gear such as water bottles, Bontrager jersey, shorts & socks, Salsa clothes and gear, gift certificates, caps, t-shirts and more....OVER \$400 WORTH OF MERCHANDISE!!! Tickets will be sold through September 27), and winner will be chosen at the Scrabble Scramble, plus some smaller prizes will be awarded, too. Don't miss out on supporting your chapter and a chance of winning an awesome prize!!! Lisa is selling tickets at all events and most races, prices are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Call her at one of the above numbers if you don't see her at the races & events!!! Everyone is

welcome....help support the Mid-State Chapter.

The next chapter ride will be Saturday, September 13, 11AM at

Fort Custer Rec. Area in Augusta (near Battle Creek). Postcards were sent out to all chapter members, if you didn't get one contact us at once so we can make sure you get all the current info when it comes out. That number again is: (517) 782-9093.

Northeast Chapter

The crew from the Northeast Chapter has been hard at work and play over the last several weeks of summer. On June 8th, 1997 we had a very successful trail maintenance day at the Pine Haven Recreation Area. A total of 6 volunteers put in a 7 plus hour day, working to stabilize the existing Pinehaven trail and worked on putting in several new sections of our own MTB single track. Our thanks go out to the guys at Midland County Parks and Recreation and IMBA for the great CLIFF BARS.

Our chapter also likes to play so our resident hammerheads Randy Wallace and Steve Wilson put together a hell of a trip to the North County Trail on the weekend of June 20th through the 22nd. On Saturday morning we visited the greater Manistee area courtesy of the non-stop

rain, and found or own hard working executive director at the local bike shop working the room as only Dwain can. Also present was that VW driving, graphic artist guy from the Western Chapter, Dan "Clarkman". Both were in town for the Big "M" workday which was cancelled. After introductions were exchanged we ended up at a local pub & eatery and the cursed rain soon ended.

Next stop was camp, then on to the Timber Creek Camp trailhead where we staged for our 25 miler back to our camp at the Bear Track Campground. This stretch has some of the most beautiful transitions of wood types, thickets, and streams; it's a gem. I highly recommend it. Thanks Dan for your colorful company at our fireside afterglow. Sunday brought screaming leg muscles and a stage at the Beers Road Marilla trailhead. **This 14 plus mile stretch of trail to Dilling Rd. is, bar none, some of the most beautiful single track in this part of the U.S. It was a religious experience.** We couldn't believe we were actually still in Michigan. Everybody we met on the trail from hikers to bikers alike were very friendly, and communicated well to avoid problems. Thanks to the efforts of the MMBA, and many other hard-working people we still have these treasures to ride and enjoy. Please do your part to spread the word to ride on the open trails only!!!!. Teresa

(CC cont. on page 10)

Thank You!

Thank you Trek and all the Trek dealers throughout the state for your support of the **Michigan Mountain Biking Association Championship Points Series for 1997**. Your support of the enthusiastic races in Michigan and around the region has made the **MMBA Championship Points Series** one of the strongest in the country, as well as enhancing the entire MMBA program of mountain bike riding, racing and trail care.

TREK

An the Trek Dealers of Michigan!

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Bike Haus - Brighton
810-227-5070
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616-866-2226
Velocipede Peddler - East Lansing
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810-960-1371
Pavlat's Cycle & Fitness - Royal Oak
810-542-7182
Pointe Cycle & Fitness - Grosse Pointe
313-886-1968

Bill's Bike - Harper Woods
810-294-3888
Assenmacher's Cycle & Fitness - Swartz Creek
810-635-7844
Assenmacher's Cycle & Fitness - Flint
810-743-8870
Bike USA - Troy
810-646-7565
Bike USA - Bloomfield
810-680-1777
Denny's Cycle & Fitness - East Lansing
517-351-2001
Denny's Cycle & Fitness - Lansing
517-321-6700
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517-349-8880
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Port Huron
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WIN WITH TREK! WIN WITH TREK! WIN WITH TREK! WIN WITH TREK! WIN WITH TREK!

Greetings from the Points Series Office!

Trek Giveaway!

Don't forget to stop into one of these supporting shops of the MMBA Championship Points Series.

When you do you'll find the 1997 MMBA/Trek Championship Points Series promotion that could win you some very neat prizes!

It's **FREE** and all you have to do is stop into one of the shops listed on page 8 and **bingo!** You can sign-up to win things like a full Trek Factory Sponsorship, a free trip to the Trek production facilities, Trek merchandise and other great stuff. You'll also be able to check out the great Trek

products at your local dealer. So find the dealer located near you and stop in. (Note: You must register at a participating MMBA Championship Points Series Shop/Winners will be announced at the 1998 MMBA Annual Meeting in February/no purchase necessary/void where prohibited/green is the color of grass and the sky is blue and all the other stuff that needs noting to make it cool...)



Points Series Rider Gretchen Weiss heads up the start hill at the 10 year anniversary of the Pando Challenge! Photo Bill Dyhouse

Use this ad to enter the Trek Dealer's Giveaway!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of Trek Dealer where you entered giveaway _____

Maday at the Manistee National Forest Rangers Station was very helpful in sending us maps ahead of time to help us plan our trip. Their number is (616) 723-2211.

For more information on Northeast Chapter activities call Todd Dewell (517) 345-4523 or e-mail at tmdewell@Voyager.net or Kevin Bouck (517) 839-6562 or e-mail kbouck@aol.com. Rides:

Wed 9/17 Ogemaw Hills
6:30 pm (Sage Lake)
Trail Day: Sun 9/28 -
Call/e-mail for details

Northern Chapter

Dennis Bean-Larson

Now that the Singletrack Loop is up and running well, we're looking to make it even better. We'll be working on the trail every Thursday evening for the next 2 months. We're planning to re-route several poorly designed areas as well as clean out some of the accumulated sand at the bottom of some hills. Meet at the Supply Road Trailhead on Thursdays at 6:15 PM Call Dennis at (616) 263-7383 or Ed at (616) 929-3066 for specifics, or go to <http://www.remax-bayshore.com/mtn1.html> for more info. Dennis Bean-Larson

Holly/Flint Chapter

Holly/Flint
THE CHAPTER EXPANDS

TO PAVED ROADS...July 12th. we held our first Adopt-a-Road Clean-up of Grange Hall Road. Thanks to Jeff Feldmeyer the Chapter's Safety Sentry and the members who participated. The next Clean-up will be in Sept.

The Friends of Holly Rec. meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month at the Groveland Fire Dept. 7:00pm.

Southeast Chapter

Again, Bud Pell has gotten the Park's permission to have a night ride Saturday, September 20th...

Announcing the MMBA Southeast Chapter ...Equinox Maybury Night Ride

We'll meet in the Beck Road (horse stable) parking lot at about 6:00pm. This is a bring your own food, drinks, and Deep Woods Off picnic at the new shelter. The Southeast Chapter will supply the charcoal.

The sunset for September 20th is at 6:57 PM and the moon will be "waning gibbous with 81 percent of the moon's surface illuminated." There are no serious monsoons predicted for this day.

This is a NO charge, NO prizes, NO gimmicks, fun ride. We do have some leftover glow-in-the-dark T-shirts from the Summer Solstice ride. They'll be on sale \$15.

So, get your lights charged



MMBA

Complimentary, great tasting **Stoker Bars** will be available for workers at all MMBA maintenance days across the state.

Stop by the Savage Marketing's "Swift and Sweet" event booth at any MMBA Point Series race to sample all Stoker's great flavors.

and join us for the *second* official night ride at Maybury. Contact Bud Pell for more info, (313) 421-5341.

Potawatomi Chapter

New Trails at Brighton Recreation Area

Ok, here it is: A map of the new Brighton Trail. Two new trails are open for riding this fall: The Torn Shirt Trail and the Murray Lake Trail.

Torn Shirt Trail: 5.1 miles

A Slow, steep, narrow up-hill and downhill ride with tight turns. A most advanced ride indeed, similar to Highland Recreation Area.

Murray Lake Trail: 3 miles

This is an intermediate level

trail with moderate elevation changes and a few good dips for fun! This trail is not yet complete at this writing and will be 7-9 miles when finished. Please note that the Murray Lake Trail is a two-way traffic trail from Bishop Lake Rd. to the Reed Lake Access road. The one way counter clockwise loop starts from there and also ends on the Reed Lake Access.

We will continue to add mileage to the Murray Lake Loop. After that, a beginner level trail will be cut in the vicinity of Appleton Lake and Cunningham Lake Rd. The overall plan is to have 3 loops of 3 different levels. The "old" Brighton 2-mile and 5-mile loops, the Penosha and Kachin, will not be closed to biking until the completion of the Murray Lake Trail.

Thanks go out to Poto and Southeast Chapter Volunteers for coming out to cut the trail. A special thanks go to Tim Blondeel of Brighton Recreation Area and especially Chris Hescheles and Shane for laying out this excellent trail.

Directions to the trail:
Brighton Recreation Area is southwest of the 1-96 & M23 interchange (810-229-6566). Heading west exit 147, make a right onto Spencer Rd. Spencer turns into Main, which turns in Brighton Rd. Take Brighton Rd. 6 miles and turn left onto Chilson. Take Chilson 1 1/4 miles and turn left onto Bishop Lake Rd. Drive 1 mile and turn right into the parking lot.

How can you get involved?
Check the MMBA website (www.mmba.org) under the Poto

Chapter, or contact the Poto Chapter at (313) 663-3113. You can also get on the Poto Chapter e-mail distribution list and get regular updates on all upcoming events. Send a note to esims@ford.com and ask to be put on the distribution list.

Upcoming Events:

Poto Night Ride - Saturday, October 11, 7:00

Meet at the Crooked Lake Campground. Details to be posted at the trail-head and on the website. There's going to be a campfire and lots of fall talk.

Be-there!

Chapter Meeting - Wednesday, October 29 at 7:30. Full Moon Bar on Main Street in Ann Arbor. Call (313)323-2497 for details.

(CC contin. on pg. 21)

Brighton Trail Map



(CC continued next page)

Fellow Members:

The following letter was hand delivered to the secretary of the Natural Resources Commission . Your letters are desperately needed on this issue. If you have input for me on this issue, please email me at xer68@aol.com.

.....

August 6, 1997

Michigan Natural Resources Commission

POB 30028

Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Commission Member:

I am writing on behalf of the 1,400 members of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) regarding the proposed sale of part of Sections 29 and 30 lying North of Doyle Road, T1N, R4E, Livingston County. These sections, lying in the northern tip of the Pinckney Recreation Area, contain a portion of the very old and heavily trafficked Potawatomi Multi-Use Trail. At peak season, weekend traffic on this trail numbers well into the hundreds and includes such diverse user groups as mountain bikers, hikers, boy scouts, and trail runners. This sale, as it is currently proposed, stands to eliminate a significant section of the Potawatomi Trail and will potentially have negative consequences for all trail users.

The MMBA realizes that the sale of this property has been "in-process" for some time now and has been monitoring negotiations. While the MMBA does not find the sale of the property to the University of Michigan for the expansion of its biological research station objectionable in and of itself, what our organization finds disturbing is the fact that Potawatomi user groups do not stand to be compensated for this loss. As we understand it, the proceeds from the sale of this land will go to the MDNR Real Estate Division and will not be "earmarked" for use at the Pinckney Recreation Area. This is wrong! This sale is taking away recreational resources from the most densely populated area in the state. Sale proceeds should be set aside to assist in compensating Pinckney Recreation Area trail users for this loss.

This compensation could come in a variety of ways, but, will only be just if the multi-use trail which Pinckney Recreation Area is losing is replaced with comparable trail within the Area. To accomplish this, proceeds could be set aside from the sale to build additional trail which has been discussed with the Area Manager. Another alternative would be to purchase a portion of the University of Michigan's Stinchfield Woods Observatory Area – an option which has been discussed in the past.

The MMBA has numerous ideas regarding how all user groups at Pinckney Recreation Area could benefit from any compensatory proceeds resulting from this sale. To this extent, we wish to work with both the MDNR and other user groups to arrive at an agreement which will work for all of Pinckney Recreation Area's user groups.

The MMBA is maintaining a positive outlook regarding this potential loss of land, and is optimistic that the Natural Resources Commission will make a fair and just decision which will not neglect the interests of thousands of southeastern Michigan recreational trail users.

Sincerely,

Jason Aric Jones, President MMBA

MMBA Members & Potawatomi Trail Users

By Jason Jones

August 13, 1997 was a very big night for the MMBA, as Dwain Abramowski, myself, and Poto Chapter President Emil Sims were in downtown Detroit speaking to the Natural Resources Commission at their monthly meeting regarding the proposed land exchange between Pinckney Recreation Area and the University of Michigan.

I believe the meeting was productive on a number of levels. First and foremost, we got the transaction postponed until the September NRC meeting. As a result of our presentation, a number of the commissioners raised concerns regarding the sale. The commissioners raised questions pertaining to why the DNR was selling lands in SE Michigan, when they have had an "active policy" in recent years to acquire lands in this area. The commissioners also brought up the fact that the DNR staff orchestrating this deal may have thought of accommodating hunters, however, the large mountain bike user group may have been neglected somewhat in the decision making process.

The result? DNR Director K.L. Cool himself directed senior staff at the DNR to work with the MMBA as a "partner" on this issue in order to ensure that the needs of mountain bikers are met. Furthermore, he gave assurances that the mountain bikers would lose no length of trail, and, stated that we could potentially gain from this deal.

(Poto continued from last page)

What does this mean for the MMBA and Pinckney Recreation Area users? We will be sitting down with the State DNR people, as well as, the University of Michigan to ensure that our needs are met. We will be pushing, and I believe have an excellent chance at getting, & funding the newly planned Bruin Lake Loop, as well as, a short connector trail below Doyle Road. Some MMBA members have expressed to me that the MMBA should oppose this sale outright, saying that we should never condone the loss of public recreation space in SE Michigan. Although this argument has significant merit, it is my belief that in this instance, minds have been made up that this exchange will happen. As such, since the MMBA appears to have little chance of stopping the sale outright, we must take the tack that ultimately will best protect our interests. I believe this tack to be to work with the DNR and the University, to ensure that we come out of this deal with even "better" trail than we are giving up.

On a broader level, I believe that the MMBA made some serious progress yesterday in getting both exposure and recognition for our organization and the needs of Michigan mountain bikers in general. I believe that the Commissioners, the Director, and other advocates/lobbyists in attendance were truly impressed with the MMBA and its efforts.

Please feel free to e-mail me with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding our effort here (Xer68@aol.com). We will be working hard to ensure that this situation is turned into a "win" for mountain bikers.

A few other points to think about....

First and foremost, I'd like to

say that even though we are "working" with the DNR as a "partner" to develop a plan to protect our trail interests; we will still go on record as being opposed to this exchange in its current form. We will support the MUCC (the primary advocacy voice for Michigan hunters/outdoorsmen/women) stance that any net loss of public lands in SE lower Michigan is not acceptable (stated at the September meeting). Although we may "win the fight" to block this exchange (our primary goal), we have to have a "Plan B" to ensure that mountain bikers don't totally lose out if the exchange goes through.

You are encouraged to write any one of the Natural Resource Commissioners, or, DNR Director K.L. Cool by sending the letter in the Commissioners name to

Teresa Gloden, POB 30028, Lansing, MI 48909. Teresa is in the Director's office and sits right down from Director Cool's office. She forwards all letters to each respective commissioner on a weekly basis. Commissioners are as follows:

Keith J. Charters
Chairman Jerry C. Bartnik
Paul Eisele

L.Thornton Edwards, Jr.
David Holli
William U. Parfet
Lloyd "Pete" Weeks
Nancy A. Douglas

It might be worth noting: Mr. Charters is Chairman and had serious questions about "giving up" SE Michigan public land. Mr. Eisele stood up for the bikers by asking, "Have the bikers and other TRAIL users been considered in this deal?"

WARNING - WILL ROBINSON- DANGER

ON THE OTHER HAND.....

REGARDLESS IF YOU'RE A LOST IN SPACE FAN

"IT IS VERY VERY SERIOUS!"

By now many of you may have heard about Shimano's crank recall. Many of you probably think it doesn't affect me.

Well I'm telling you this is not a recall like the seatpost of a few years back or the fork recalls of the past. This is a serious problem affecting over a million cranks in the US alone. We have already seen several of them in my shop. These cranks are experiencing everything from minor cracking to catastrophic failure. Trust me if your crank disintegrates under your foot the results are not pretty. There has been almost 100 serious injuries to date nationally. The cranks affected are; FC-CT90, FC-M290, AND FC-MC12. Also known as the Altus, Acera and Alivio in the date range of mid summer 1995 on. Don't look at the LX derailleur in the back and think you have an LX equipped bike. Components get mixed and matched regularly. Many people don't know what model year bike they're riding. If there is any doubt in your mind don't mess around. Get to a shop and have it replaced. It will be done at no cost to you. If the shop you're in down plays this problem or refuses assistance you're in the wrong shop. This is not a Schwinn thing or a Trek thing or Huffy thing it affects almost every brand you've ever heard of as well as many you've never heard of. Many of your kids are on these cranks get them fixed NOW. If you need more info call Shimano at 1-800-353-4791.tell your friends too.

Info supplied by: Tim Brick tbrick@brickwheels.com

RIDING BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE



RIDING BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE

By Fred Tyszka

Nature consists of plants, minerals and animals. We talked about birds a little bit last time and birds are animals, so this nature article is for the birds.

Birds are one of the animals that are easily noticed all year around, in all parts of our state. Birds live in the city, suburbs, rural areas, woods and can be found on the telephone line over your head. The birds in the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area come in a variety of colors especially during the summer. Cardinals, Red Polls and Scarlet Tanagers offer the reds, Bluebirds and Indigo Buntings offer the blues, Yellow Warblers and Yellow Shafted Flickers cover the yellow part of the color spectrum and Hummingbirds offer a brilliant emerald green and red splash. All of these birds make for a confetti type of woodland experience.

Mother-nature, as mentioned in another article, is not exactly overtly benevolent in many ways and this applies to "bird-dom" too. The Bluebirds are a prime example. House Wrens and House Sparrows will take the eggs, or peck holes in the Bluebirds eggs. House Sparrows will also peck the eyes and head feathers out of a nesting blue bird, killing it, as well as mutilating the young chicks when the nest is found unattended. Other examples are, Crows and Redwing Blackbirds. The Crows will go through a tree,

branch by branch looking for eggs or chicks to feed to their young. The Redwing Blackbirds have been noticed carrying embryos from eggs to feed their young. One summer a Redwing Blackbird was seen on the feeder, it dropped down on top of a Sparrow, pecked it to death and then flew off. This probably makes up for the sparrow picking on the Bluebirds.

The park's beach area is also a part of nature's plan. A few sunbathers were startled recently when they saw some baby Mallard ducks with their mother swim by a Swan. The Swan just reached over and ate the ducklings. On another occasion a mother Killdeer took her chicks to the waters edge when some Gulls swooped down and ate the chicks. In both cases the public wanted us to do something about it.

Another case was on the pond behind the park headquarters, two families of Geese were raised there. Fox or whatever, eventually killed both parents of the one family. The park employees were not too concerned as we thought that the other family would adopt them. It is not as if birds have to nurse, and the family size is not limited by the number of nipples. Much to our surprise when the orphaned goslings swam over to the family for support and safety, they discovered that it was more of a "nuclear-family unit" as in atomic bomb nuclear. The adults grabbed the foreign gosling by the head and shook them till they died.

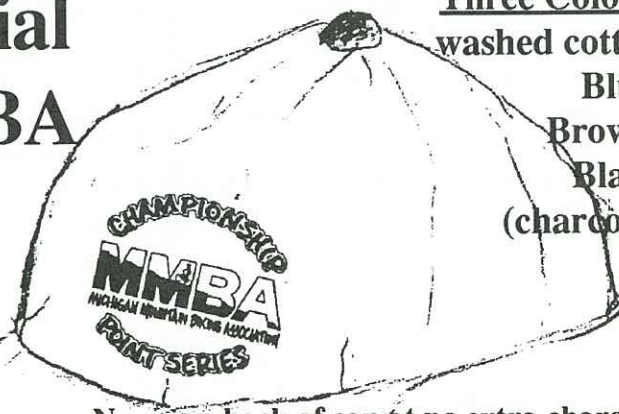
The term is often heard "it's a dog eat dog world out there," now perhaps it could also be called a "bird eat bird world..." Of course

(fence cont. next page)

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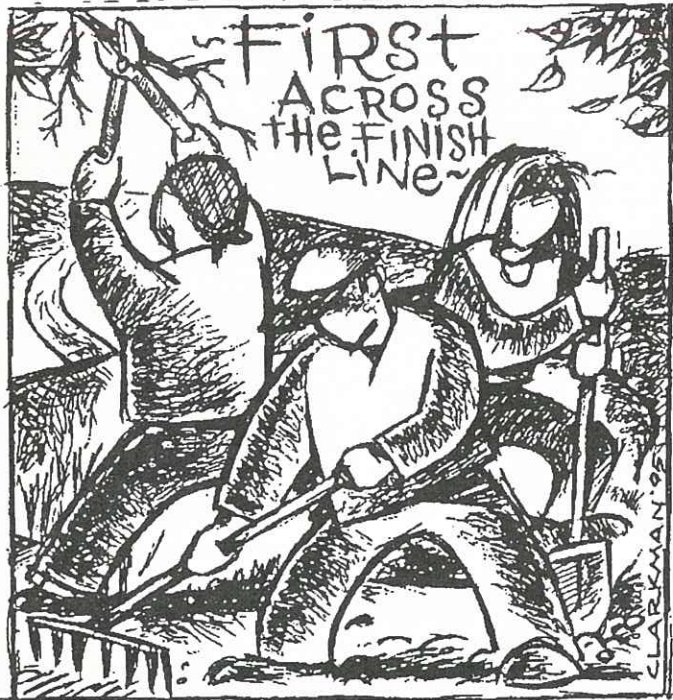


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Attention All Trail Volunteers!



Don't forget you may only a few trail care and development days left to qualify for this year's First Across The Finishline Awards. All you need is ten hours help your local chapter care for the trails and you'll be a recipient of our first state-wide trail care awards program. Your hours count, not only for an award but towards helping keep the land management agencies informed about who is working on the trails and how many hours are spent out there. Call your chapter president now and see how you can get involved. To all those who have already put in their 10 hours toward trail care and development (some ten times that much!)

THANK YOU! WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS CEREMONY IN FEBRUARY.

for shirt put on backwards or upside down. Always remove shirt before putting it into the washing machine and/or dryer. Though the list of uses for this shirt (ice freezer bag, hand cloth, signal flag, formal wear, door rag, etc.) are

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MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

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If your shop would like make the MMBA Shirt available to your customers just give the MMBA a call at 616-785-0120. Thank you!

Please, in the interest of safety, always make sure your head is securely fastened on before inserting it into anything. Not responsible for shirt put on backwards or upside down. Always remove shirt before putting it into the washing machine and/or dryer. Though the list of uses for this shirt (ice freezer bag, hand cloth, signal flag, formal wear, door rag, etc.) are

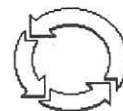
very expensive it is not recommended for use as a birth control device. Read all instructions before use.

(fence cont. from last page)

man is not innocent as we like our eggs and toast, fried chicken, Christmas goose, Thanksgiving turkey, chicken soup or salad, Duck L'orange and so on...

Ranger Pet Peeves - A really good one this time. A biker came to the office because he had locked his keys in his car. The ranger grabbed "the kit" and headed out the door. He was back in two minutes. I said, "that was fast." He said, "No, the guy is parked in the church's parking lot, not the park's lot." It is too bad because our authority is only on state land. I asked if someone from the church wouldn't open the door for him, he said that nobody was there. We did however, let him use our telephone to call home.

Ed. note: If you use the park use the park lot and pay the fee. It's only right...



Please remember to recycle...it's a part of bicycling!

MMBA SHOP AND MANUFACTURER MEMBERS

IS YOUR SHOP HERE? THE SHOPS LISTED HERE CARE ABOUT WHERE YOU RIDE. DOES YOUR SHOP?



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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For advocacy space at the 1997 **CABDA** Bicycle Show, Oct. 4-5-6. Come check us out! Hall G, Booth 4702

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AS AN MMBA MEMBER YOU RECEIVED A LIST OF THE 10% MEMBERS WHEN YOU JOINED AND/OR WILL RENEW MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR. IF YOUR SHOP/MANUFACTURER WOULD LIKE TO BECOME AN MMBA 10% MEMBER IN ADDITION TO BEING A PROUD SHOP/MANUFACTURER MEMBER OF THE MMBA JUST CALL 616-785-0120 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

A REMINDER TO ALL MMBA MEMBERS:
ALL THE SHOPS/MANUFACTURERS ON THE LAST PAGE ARE SPECIAL. THEY SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS ON THE TRAIL AND IN THE MMBA POINTS SERIES. THEY DESERVE YOUR PATRONAGE!!!!!!

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We sell high quality bicycles in a wide range of models, prices and styles.

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Add 10 points to your over-all cool-mountain biker score if you go to an MMBA Member shop!

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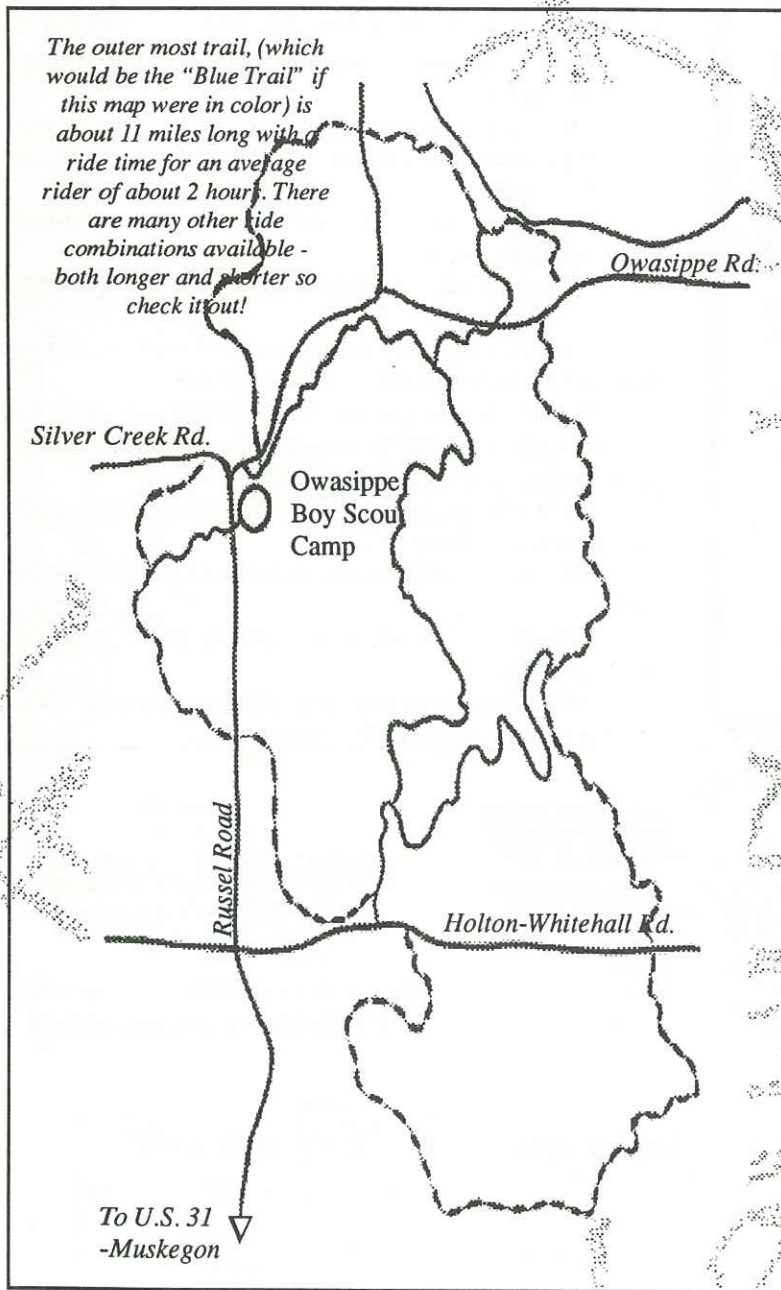
Grand Rapids 616-455-6190 Jenison 616-547-1670 Cascade 616-285-1670

Attention all MMBA 10% Club bike shop participants please send me an updated business card size ad for inclusion in the next issue of the BRB. New ad submission deadline: Nov. 1997. Please don't delay!

Owasippe Is Now Open

There was a slight mix up in the last BRB in which the dates that Owassipi Boy Scout Camp would be open for riding were left out. As of Labor Day, the Camp is now open for riding again. There are also recreational and trail care events scheduled for the camp this fall by the Western Chapter of the MMBA. Call the Chapter for more information 616-866-8583 or 616-949-9071.

"Forget the damned motor car and build the cities for lovers and friends."
Lewis Mumford



Hello Fellow Volunteers:

My name is Thomas Hooker and I also had a role in getting the Mountain Bike Association and Owassipi Boy Scout Camp open. We now have a great new place to ride. I have been a volunteer for some time now for the camp and would like to let you know what you will find out there. First there are lots of beautiful lakes complete with swans, swamps, and creeks not to mention the cabin rentals for camp volunteers.

There are cabins right on some of these lakes. The camp volunteers also get canoe rentals. As you hike, bike, ride horse or canoe along you may see eagle nests or maybe even the gravesite of Owassippe himself, the Indian who the camp is named after. I do not know much about him but the camp director can tell you more, as well as, where the grave is. Please visit it to show your respect and as way of saying thank you for the land. You will be riding through valleys, over rolling hills, through meadows, and 50 cut areas where there are tons of deer to be seen. Please remember that this is a boy scout camp so please keep this in mind when riding. I will be working on getting other camps to allow us to build more trails.

One of Mother Nature's Helper. Thomas Hooker

Trail Maintenance - Another Way

by Dennis Hansen

Traditionally, trail maintenance has been performed during organized group outings, usually under the organizational structure of a chapter. For many purposes, such as trail reconstruction, gravel placement, water-bar or other surface material installation, these organized events are necessary in order to get enough people together to effectively accomplish these major projects. However, when it comes to clearing overhanging brush and limbs that constantly grow into the trail, these large groups are not really necessary.

I propose that each and everyone one of us take on the responsibility of brush clearing as a normal part of riding the trails. Taking along a small folding saw or hand pruning clippers on each ride to occasionally trim back especially annoying limbs from time to time along the trail as you ride will go along way to keep the trail clear. This method would also be helpful after storms when there are always new limbs blocking the trail. I carry a small folding saw in my jersey pocket for convenient access. Taking rest breaks at limb cutting locations will accomplish two things at one time. I don't propose that each rider cut off every overhanging limb along the trail, but if everyone did a few, the trail

would be constantly cleared of brush. And this could be done without the need to organize a group event, which as we all know take a lot of planning and can't always be attended by everyone. We all ride the trails anyway. So why don't we do a little maintenance along the way? For those of you who don't stop during the ride, you could always go back after your ride and take a few minutes to trim out a few branches.

One word about cutting limbs and stems.....Since bushes and trees grow rapidly in Michigan, rather than just cutting back the individual stem of a bush or tree limb at the edge of the trail, consider cutting off the entire stem at the ground and limb at the tree trunk. This will reduce the need for repeated cutting throughout the season or in some cases even annual cutting. Especially for trees, cutting off the entire limb will eliminate the dangerous stub which projects out from the trunk, which could eventually injure a rider.

For those of you who are interested in folding saws, I have found the 7 inch blade on my Corona folding saw can effectively and quickly cut through up to 5" diameter limbs in minutes. They have an unbelievable cutting edge. These "tri-edge" saws are professional saws usually not found in garden stores, since they cost more (around \$18) than the "consumer" folding saw. But they should be avail-

able at Lesco Corp. throughout Michigan. Right now for a limited time while supplies last, they have the Corona saw on sale for \$12.00. If they exhaust their supplies of the Corona, they also have an equally good Wolf Garten 7" folding saw for \$17.00. Lesco branches are in Troy 689-5005, Livonia 458-4770, Grand Rapids 956-8073, Grand Blanc 694-9100, Taylor 955-2424, Clinton Twp (Detroit) 792-6180, Lansing 272-9710 or Ypsilanti 487-5559. If you are not close to one of these stores, they will mail order or try a local arborist supply store in your area. (MMBA and the author have no financial connection to Lesco Corp.)

One last word about folding saws. They are intended to cut only on the PULL stroke. Attempting to cut on the PUSH stroke will snap the blade. However, since these blades are so efficient, you only need to cut in one direction. Enjoy your ride and cut a few limbs for me, especially the high ones..

Ed. Note: Before any trail care activities take place make sure that it has been cleared with your local park manager. Contact your local chapter for more information.

*Volunteers make sure
you're in line for your
share of the \$10,000 for
your help making
Michigan Trails the best in
the Nation - see page 15.*



It's A Small World After All (at least out on the trail):

By Dennis Bean-Larson

Ed. note: The "who's who" of this story isn't as important that the feeling that we've all had as mountain bikers.

Has this happened to you?

On a Tuesday night this past summer, Dave Heim and I went down and rode with some folks near Onekama that we'd never met.... or so we thought.....

Turns out Dave Heim raced Cross Country and track in High School against our host (whose name I can't remember, drat), when Onekama and Kingsley were the top guys in the state class D (1976). Kingsley won the state title that year with Heim as #4. Another guy at the ride knew me.

Please Note: Each year as of September 15th All State Game Areas are closed to mountain biking unless otherwise noted. Do not ride in State Game Areas (Cannonburg, Berry, Rose Lake, Rouge River, etc.) until after January 31 - And only if the trails are not thawing and there isn't enough snow for cross country skiing (4 Inches Of Snow....Don't Go!)

He had come to my house 12 years ago to look at a horse carriage I was building. Another gal knew some of my best friends that moved to Florida 5 years ago - small world. They all are coming to ride the VASA with us (on Tuesdays) sometime this fall.

Another day another ride: Later the same week at 8 o'clock, our Sunday group met at the singletrack trail-head as usual. As it turns out a rider named Dan was there to ride by himself (we came to find out he's a good friend of the Executive Director of the MMBA) So, he joined us!!!

Even off the trail you can find yourself on the trail...

Recently, I met with Joyce, a

writer from Traverse Magazine to proof her story at a little coffee shop downtown and we're talking away, and this guy at the next table says "pardon me, but I couldn't help overhearing you talk about mountain bikes" Again, I'm not good on names the first time, but he was the MMBA executive director's brother's roommate in college, and he'll be teaching school this fall in..... where else, butONEKAMA !!!! Geez, wish these same kind of things had more monetary results, like selling real estate or something (yes, I have a "real" job when I'm not working to help the MMBA with trail development up here in Northern Michigan)!!!!!!

See you on the trail < :)

(CC continued from pg. 11)
Mr. Emiliano Sims,
Potawatomi Chapter
Michigan Mountain Biking Association
Dear Mr. Sims,

I am writing about a recent project that was completed at the Pinckney Recreation Area. A hand pump and well were installed by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (Potawatomi Chapter), Boy Scouts of America (Great Sauk Trail Committee), and Sierra Club (Huron Valley Group). Three distinct user groups that don't always see eye to eye on use; yet you were all able to work together for the collective good of all trail users. I am as pleased with the cooperation of the Potawatomi Chapter and other user groups with the installation of the pump and well.

Please accept a very genuine thank you from Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division, and Pinckney Recreation Area. A particular thank you is for Al Metty. It is my understanding that Mr. Metty played a key role in keeping this project going over the past two years and seeing it through to completion.

A plaque with the Michigan Mountain Biking Association's name will be installed later this year with the installation of new trailhead signs at the Silver Lake Unit, Pinckney Recreation Area. Again, thanks for Michigan Mountain Biking Association's cooperation on this project.

Sincerely,
Rodney Stokes, Acting Chief
Parks and Recreation Division
517-335-4827

Western Chapter

The Western Chapter of the MMBA would like to thank all of those people who have been involved in our Trail Workdays so far. It seems that everyone is putting forward an extra effort to make the workdays a real success. A special thanks goes out to the shops and organizations that went a little further in providing food and refreshments for those days. A big "THANK YOU" to Village Bike Shop, Fun Promotions, North Kent Schwinn, Cliff Bars, Cannondale, and Savage/Stoker Bars.

Wouldn't it be nice to have as much success in raising money for the Western Chapter as we do statewide? It can happen! We need financial resources for the trail for map printing, trail-head signs, trail signs, stickers, tools, mailings, etc. We need money-raising ideas and volunteers to make those ideas come to fruition. This is as much a part of being "First Across The Finish Line" as our trail workdays. We have only



one event each year, that raises money and it all goes back to just that one trail. A raffle, bake sale, fun days, car/bike wash, bash... what do you have in mind? Need your ideas and your mindful bodies to make it happen.

Ric Castleman, from the Western Chapter is working on going to Colorado Springs, Colorado this fall to become an instructor for the National Mountain Biking Patrol (through IMBA). For those of you that might be interested in joining Ric or finding out more about the future Michigan Mountain Biking Patrol, please contact Ric Castleman @ 616-949-9071 or e-mail him at: rickiblues@aol.com.

Southwest Chapter

See dirtsock 97 (pg. 1)

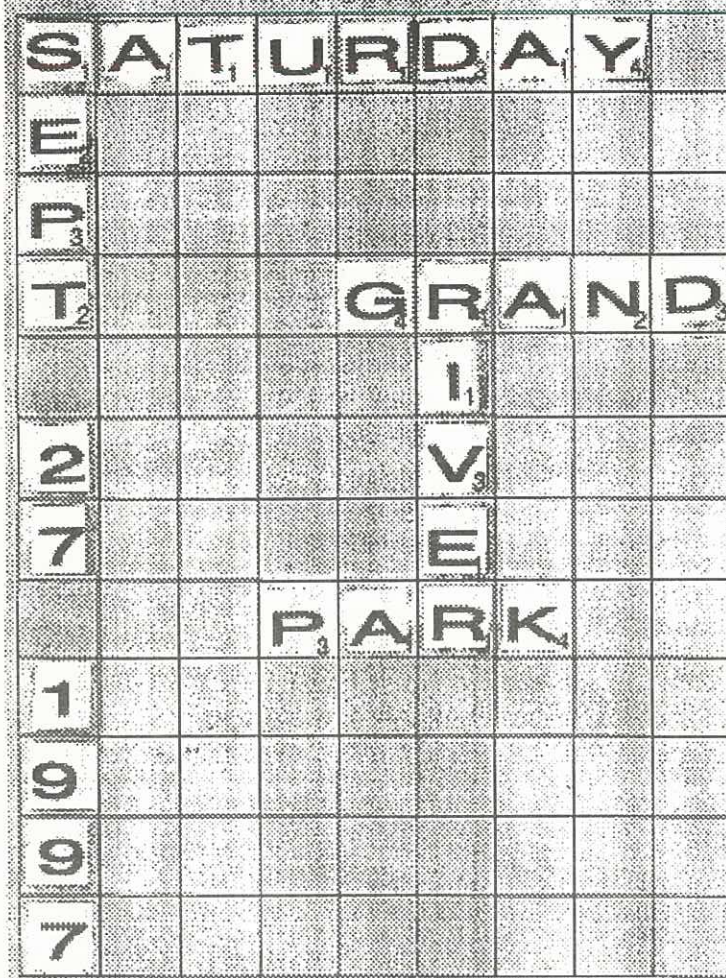


Without the commitment of the Southwest Chapter volunteers of the MMBA dirtsock 97, would not have happened! Thank you!!!!

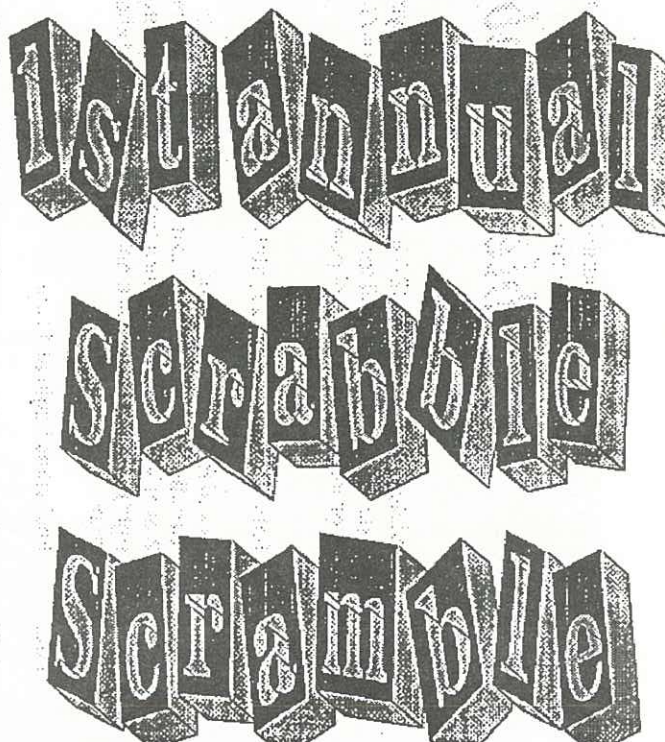
Pontiac Lake Chapter

The Pontiac Lake Chapter of the MMBA is in need of volunteers and organizational help please contact the MMBA at 616-785-0120.

Western Chapter Volunteers take care of some rain washouts at a work day this past summer (Yankee Springs Recreation Area).



Mid-State chapter
of the MMBA
presents:



A fun-filled day playing team Scrabble on bikes!
Everyone welcome, great trail for kids to ride on!

****FREE STUFF FOR EVERYONE!****

Great prizes for Scrabble winners!

*Scrabble Scramble

*Pinata

*Raffle drawing for Cannondale Backpack & other
great prizes!

When:

Saturday, September 27, 1997

Where:

Grand River Park, Lansing.

Directions: From I-96 take exit 101 and head south
on M-99. Turn left at Waverly Rd. go to Holt Rd
and turn left. Then on to Grovenburg Rd. head
south (turn right), 2 mile to the park entrance.
Burchfield shelter reserved. Look for signs.

Time:

11am

Cost:

\$7.00 per-person, \$20.0 per-Family

Includes food & Festivities

Mid-Michigan Chapter is providing hot dogs/
hamburgs, condiments, plates & utensils and pop.

Please bring a dish to pass.

Enter by September 24th
Check payable to Mid-State MMBA

Mid- MI Scrabble Scramble
c/o

Lisa Lazaroff

1711 Third St.

Jackson Mi 49203

517-782-9093

e-mail: loonsong@voyager.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

of Participants/Ag(es): _____

Phone: _____

Release: I understand mountain biking is a dangerous sport and in no
way hold the MMBA/Mid-State Chapter and/or Grand River Park liable
or responsible for any injuries or losses incurred by me during event.
Always wore a helmet.

Signature (parent if under 18 years old)

date

Stuff You Need To Know...

MMBA Addresses:

General Membership
4217 Highland Rd. #268
Waterford MI, 48328-2165

Bent Rim Bugle/Editorial

Executive Directors Office
P.O. Box 29, Belmont MI 4930

Phone Numbers:

General MMBA/Executive Director

Bent Rim Bugle

(616) 785-0120/fax (616)785-1940

CHAPTER Presidents/

MMBA BOARD TRUSTEES

MID-MICHIGAN: Sandra Davison (517)487-8892

(Alt. Mid-MI/Gen.. State-Wide Trail Info):

Dennis Hansen (517) 3494683)

POTAWATOMI: Emil Sims (313) 663-3113

SOUTHEAST: Tod Scott-(810)288-3753

PONTIAC LAKE: Robin Scurr (810) 363-6089

WESTERN MICH: Paul Smith. (616) 866-8583

NORTHERN MICH: Dennis Bean-Larson

(616) 263-7383

HOLLY/FLINT: Kirk Costello (810) 634-4091

SOUTHWEST: Mike Huber (616) 373-9846

NORTHEAST: Contact Tod Dewell 517 345-4523

UPPER PENINSULA: Temp.

Contact Don Watson 906-482-3382

MMBA Championship

Points Series Chair:

Gordon Allen (616)731-4844

MEMBERSHIP:

Robin Scurr (810) 363-6089

COMPUTERS: <http://www.mmba.org>
gommmba@aol.com



Next Bent Rim Bugle (BRB)

Deadline is (are)

November 30 and January 30

Classified ads in BRB Free to MMBA Members: Send written info before deadline to Executive Director. Ad rates for member and non-member shops/industry contact the Executive Director 616-785-0120/fax 616-785-1940-e-mail: gommmba@aol.com.

Think about this:

If you find a trail to difficult to ride - remember you can always get off your bike and walk. This may seem like a no-brainer but how many times have you heard of someone telling you a wild story about how they went on their gonzo way down a trail and came away looking like a human strawberry? Really, always address a trail within your ability level. If it seems like it's too technical, just stop - get off your bike and walk for a while. You don't lose any points off your overall cool mountain biker score. There is nothing in the rule book that says you can't just walk it.

In any case, knowing the trail's terrain before you ride can help you avoid getting into something over your head. Always check in with the land manager if you are unsure. If you just ask the mountain bikers at the trail-head "How's the trail?" You'll get the standard reply, "Awesome" or something like that. The land manager however knows how many times he's had to attend to someone who got in over their head on the trail and how you can avoid the predicament.

Another good way to get to know a trail before you ride is to spend a few hours doing trail maintenance. There is no better way than to get right out there and stick your hands in the trail dirt you'll be riding.

In short, this little discourse is all about rule 9 of the MMBA Responsibility Code on page 4

9. Plan Ahead!

So, just do it and ride!

(If you have information that you think others could benefit from hearing about riding on trails send it in and we'll share it with others. BRB P.O. Box 29, Belmont MI 49306/or email: gommmba@aol.com.)

WHAT THE MMBA NEEDS TO SERVE YOU BETTER:

1. Each chapter needs a member to print and mail a postcard once a month to local members, listing Chapter related/MMBA activities.
2. The MMBA needs people to attend MMBA Points Series Races to sign up members, take questions and forward them to appropriate MMBA officers, and to talk about what the MMBA does and has done. Call Gordon Allen 616-731-4844 or 616-785-0120.
3. Not a month and in some cases, not a week goes by where there is not an MMBA trail maintenance activity going on somewhere in our state. Call the numbers above and get involved. Your riding depends on it!

Again, Bud Pell has gotten the Park's permission to have a night ride Saturday.

September 20th... *

* ...Announcing the MMBA Southeast Chapter... *

* ..Equinox Maybury Night Ride... *

We'll meet in the Beck Road (horse stable) parking lot at about 6:00pm. This is a bring your own food, drinks, and Deep Woods Off picnic at the new shelter. The Southeast Chapter will supply the charcoal.

The sunset for September 20th is at 6:57 PM and the moon will be "waning gibbous with 81 percent of the moon's surface illuminated."

There are no serious monsoons predicted for this day.

This is a NO charge, NO prizes, NO gimmicks, fun ride. We do have some leftover glow-in-the-dark T-shirts from the Summer Solstice ride. They'll be on sale \$15.

So, get your lights charged and join us for the *second* official night ride at Maybury

Contact Bud Pell for more info, (313) 421-5341. *

.....Don't forget The Poto Night Ride: Saturday October 11, 7:00pm.....

Meet at the Crooked Lake Campground.

Check the Web site (www.mmba.org) for more information.

Above the Bridge:

By D. Abramowski

Over the course of June and July trips were made to the Upper Peninsula to establish the ground work for meeting the needs of those who ride in Michigan's "other" (and some would say best) peninsula.

Our U.P. contact person is Dave Ollila, publisher of U.P. Mountain Biking. My first meeting with Dave was at the Kewanaw Chaindrive in Houghton -in June - during a blinding rainstorm. The rain blew in sideways from somewhere off the great plains to the west. "This isn't too bad..." Dave said, as a pop-up tent blew over a racer's head as he grunted for the finishline during our first meeting at the race. "There's usually a bit of snow mixed in with the rain this time in June." As I talked to Dave I noticed the racer got to the finishline and he either fell over, or the wind blew him over. Then it actually started to blow and rain even harder. I feared that many riders fell over long before they reached the finishline.

But that's the Upper Peninsula,

different, refreshingly different. That goes for the mountain biking, too. You'll find just about anything you want to ride from short and friendly to long, really long and gnarly.

What has become clear is that it is time to get the word out about the U.P. and that was why I was meeting with Dave. In June, Dave and I set a date to get everyone who was interested in trying spread the biking word about the U.P. together. We need to brain storm and start working up the long, long, long trail, if you will, of organizing the vast wildness of the U.P.

After getting the word out we met again in July in Marquette. The weather was sunny and bright if you can believe it. In fact, rumor was, it was like that since I had left in June. I could only stop in for the meeting that night and had to get back downstate for another meeting, it was going to be like that for the rest of the summer. Oh well the word is, there is no bad weather in the U.P. just inappropriate clothing....

Dave had brought together members of the U.P. Tourism Bureau,

Chambers of Commerce, riders, resort owners and some media persons. There was a major commitment by everyone to explore resources at their disposal and develop a plan to get information into riders all around the Midwest. As many of you know, the U.P. really does have a lot to offer riders. There is even a rumor of a 5 mile long downhill near Calumet. What it boils down to is the U.P. has the potential of being a destination type of recreation area: from the mountains in the western U.P. to the growing metro area of Marquette. From the wilderness rides of *Grand Island and the Seney National Wildlife Refuge and resorts and tourism areas of the Easter U.P. and Drummond Island.

Look for more information soon on the U.P. and if you're in the area contact Dave Ollila at 906-226-2743 from more information.

*Traditionally there has always been an informal mountain bike ride around Grand Island near Munising, the first Saturday of October. If anyone attends this event this year let us know about it and if the tradition still continues.

Miles and Trails

With the help of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and the Subaru Corporation of America, the level of involvement in forest related activities of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association around the state has been maintained and increased for another year. As you can see by the information provided below, the mountain bikers of Michigan have been represented all across the state by the presence of the executive director. These miles do not include when the director has been involved with activities related to mountain biking on a casual basis, which many times is just as important as scheduled meetings and business activities that are listed. Individual members secure the representation of their interests at these meetings and business activities for about \$0.06 a day (\$22.00 per year). It costs those who are business and industry leaders about \$0.33 a day (\$110.00) a year. The saying goes, **the world is run by those who show up**, and with support of members, shops, industry and national organizations such as IMBA and Subaru, the MMBA can empower someone to be there when you can not because you have a full time job, you run a

shop or if you're having a great day - you're out riding.

Though the miles traveled to represent mountain biking must be done by traveling the roads of Michigan and the surrounding region, the trails are the beneficiary. In 1997 the MMBA has been allowed to develop, expand, reroute and/or maintain trails at: Fort Custer, Big M Ski Area (National Forest), Yankee Springs, Owassippe (Boy Scout Camp), NCT, VASA, Pine Haven, Ionia, Highland, Potawatomi, Brighton,

Maybury, Island Lake, the list continues and is very long. Also, our local chapters can do their work because we present a united front across the state. Look for the IMBA/Subaru/MMBA Outback at events all across the state including the **Iceman Come'th** and in Chicago at the 1997 CABDA show. It is your support of the MMBA that keeps our trails connected mile by mile, meeting by meeting each and every day you are a member.

Jan. Travel 1997

	<u>Miles Traveled</u>
Post Office	- 84
Kinko's	- 130
Office max	- 32
dnb Designs/Don Lee - Dan Clark/Art	- 48

Feb.

Post Office	- 72
Kinko's	- 32
Office max	- 16
dnb Designs/Don Lee - Dan Clark/Art	- 32
1997 MMBA annual meeting	- 452
Denny's Open House-	- 160

Mar.

Post Office	- 52
Kinko's	- 32

(advocate miles contin. next page)



Mt. Biking
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Guide Service
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Lansing MI 48933
517-371-1330**

(advocate miles contin. from last page)

3-18 to 3-20					
Boulder Colorado/Michigan	-	1,248	6-5 TCI MMBA Min.		
3-21 Cadillac Huron/Manis.			6-12 Cadillac U.S. Forest Service	-	207
Friends/Forest	-	184	6-16 Kewenaw/chapter devel. meeting	-	1039
3-24 MI State Univer. Forest Rec. Class	-	140	6-20 Ionia/Dan's Bike Shop	-	114
3-26 Gaylord Forest Rec. Meeting	-	310	6-24 Bike Shops/Office Supplies/Miss	-	46
office max	-	32	6-30 Mackinaw State Forest		
			Council Petoskey	-	190
<u>April.</u>			<u>July</u>		
4-1 Rails to Trails Event Kentwood	-	51	Post Office	-	44
Post Office	-	112	Kinko's	-	64
Kinko's	-	32	Office max	-	16
Office max	-	48	7-5 Fort Custer TrailHead Work Day	-	167
4-19 Bass River Trail Work	-	80	7-6 Potawatomi Trail/IMBA Crew	-	294
4-20 Yankee Springs Event	-	98	7-8 Western Chapt. Meeting	-	23
4-22 Western Chapt. Meeting	-	42	7-10 Bill & Pauls/MMBA Info Meeting	-	32
4-23 State Board meeting/DNR Meeting			7-13 Pando	-	23
/LMB Meeting	-	189	7-18 Friends of Forest-Cadillac	-	174
4-27 Boyne Event	-	322	7-20 Yankee Springs Trail	-	94
miles			7-23 Lansing/Board/Meeting with DNR	-	234
4-29 Villiage Inn/Boy Scout Camp	-	94	7-25 New Kinko's (to get discount)	-	74
			7-29 Marquette/Starting chapter		
<u>May</u>			Stopped at Bike Shops	-	630
Post Office	-	40	<u>August</u>		
Kinko's	-	32	Post Office	-	72
Office max	-	64	Kinko's	-	72
5-1 Robinetts/TV 8/Subaru			Office max	-	16
EMT Sports	-	38	8-7 dirtstock 97 Battle Creek/Ric C.	-	218
5-4 Fort Custer Event	-	208	8-8 Subaru Maint./other MMBA miss.	-	36
5-10 Owassipe Boy Scout	-	115	8-10 Cannonsburg Maint./work day	-	18
5-13 Alpena/Thunder Bay Trails	-	474	8-11 dirtstock 97 Prep.	-	48
5-16 Big M Ski Trail N.F. Service Event	-	243	8-12 Battle Creek Dirt Stock Meet.	-	218
5-19 Robinetts Meeting/Pics/Office	-	24	8-13 DNR/NRC meeting/Jason Jones	-	400
5-20 Clark Man Art	-	27	8-14 Dirt Stock prep.	-	48
5-21 DNR/Mason Building Lansing	-	158	8-20 MI State Fair DNR Booth	-	334
6-1 Ionia trail event/Okemos BRB Print	-	209	8-22 N.F. Meeting Cadillac/Dirt Stock/Mi	-	390
			8-23 N.F. Meeting Cadillac/ Dirt Stock	-	344
<u>June</u>			8-24 dirtstock 97 /Return A.V. Equip.	-	229
Post Office	-	44			
Kinko's	-	64			
Office max	-	48			
			Total Advocate Miles From Feb. - Aug. 97		11,820



Development of trail at the Big M Ski Area near Manistee. MMBA members, executive Director and U.S. Forest Service pictured.



Important Notes:

THE 10-5-97 SCHUSS RACE HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION

Remaining 1997 MMBA Championship Points Series Events

Sponsored by Trek USA:

•9-14-97 Mike Cool Memorial Challenge

Cool Ski Area, Leroy MI

Fun Promotions, (616) 453-4245

•9-21-97 Addison Oaks Fall MTB Race

Addison Oaks County Park, Leonard MI

Oakland County Parks (810) 858-46-47

•10-19-97 Cannonsburg Challenge

Cannonsburg Ski Area, Grand Rapids MI

Fun Promotions, (616) 453-4245

•For Remaining 1997 MMBA Recreational Events and Final Trail Care Days of the Year - See Chapter Chatter on Page 7.
ATTENTION ALL RIDERS!!!

Due to the fantastic amount of use that we've seen on the new VASA Singletrack Loop near Traverse City, We have now remarked the trail to a ONE-WAY ONLY direction. There are maps at the Trailhead off Supply Road and there are maps at:

<<http://www.remax-bayshore.com/mtn1.html>>

There also has been a reroute of the trail so watch for it. This reroute was completed on our Thursday evening trail work days. For more info see Northern Chapter in Chapter Chatter starting on page 7. DBL

Michigan Mountain Biking Association
4217 Highland Rd. #268
Waterford, MI 48328-2165

Address Correction Requested

"When the cyclist roams
freely on his steely steed in
the godly world of Nature .
. . his heart rises and he
bewonders the splendor of
Creation." —Wilhelm Wolf
(1890)

Attention Racers Of
MMBA Championship
Points Series

Due to cancellation of
Whiskey Creek and
Schuss Mountain (be-
yond the control of the
MMBA). Your best 8
races - instead of 9 - will
be counted towards your
MMBA Championship
Points Series total score.

Though Schuss
mountain had to be can-
celled this year due to
delays in construction of a
higher vertical on the ski
hill, new lifts and the
development of another
championship golf course,
a spokesperson for the
resort said that they would
be developing a new and
cool trail as soon as
current construction has
been completed. We'll
keep you posted.

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"Paradise is exactly where your are right now, only much, much better..." Laurie Anderson